

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6703
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3632

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 091578

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS ARE KEYED TO PARAS 1A THROUGH 1D REFTTEL:

A. THE GOVERNMENT ACCORDS FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO). ALTHOUGH THE PLO OFFICE IS LISTED AS A SPECIAL CATEGORY OF MISSION IN THE GOP'S DIPLOMATIC LIST, THE OFFICE IS FULLY ACCREDITED, AND ITS OFFICERS AND STAFF ENJOY THE SAME DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS ARE ENJOYED BY OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

B. THE PLO MISSION, ESTABLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1974, IS HEADED BY A "REPRESENTATIVE" WHO IS LISTED LAST IN RANK IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED TO PAKISTAN. THE MISSION IS SMALL, HAVING ONLY TWO DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS --THE REPRESENTATIVE AND A SECOND SECRETARY.

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C. THERE ARE NO PLO COMPONENT ELEMENTS OR OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED IN PAKISTAN.

D. THE PLO MISSION MAINTAINS A RATHER LOW PROFILE, AND PLO OFFICERS ARE NOT OFTEN SEEN ON THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT. THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE DOES ATTEND FUNCTIONS

SPONSORED BY THE CORPS AND IS SEEN AT THE AIRPORT WITH THE OTHER AMBASSADORS TO GREET ARRIVING AND DEPARTING DIGNITARIES.

2. APART FROM FORMALLY REPRESENTING THE PLO TO THE GOP, THE CHIEF ACTIVITY OF THE PLO MISSION HERE SEEMS TO BE KEEPING TRACK OF AND SETTLING DISPUTES AMONG PALESTINIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN PAKISTAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND TRYING TO MAINTAIN INFLUENCE OVER THE PALESTINIAN

STUDENTS UNION TO KEEP IT FROM COMING UNDER THE CONTROL OF MORE RADICAL PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE MISSION COORDINATES TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH THE PAK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR PALESTINIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THERE ARE SEVERAL OF THEM PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY RECEIVING TRAINING IN A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY SUBJECTS. HUMMEL

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